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Zaira

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Zaira was the favored concubine of Malliq Nibras of Ofir around 1273.[1]

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Biography

Death

While the malliq had a number of concubines, it was well known that Zaira was his favorite, so when she fell so ill that regular treatments weren't helping, he summoned any help he could. However, even one of Ofir's well known healers, Fathaa, was unable to heal her.

Meanwhile Radeyah, seeking the recently vacant crown sorceress position after the last one had died, made her attempt. When she realized though that Zaira was beyond anyone's saving, she decided

Zaira	
Basic Information	
Status	Deceased (sickness, finished off by Radeyah)
Nationality	
Physical Information	
Hair color	Auburn
Race	Human
Gender	Female
Family	
Partner(s)	Nibras (partner) Maraal (the quareen's fling)
Appearance(s)	
Comics	*Of Flesh and Flame*

instead to use her magic to summon and bind a quareen to take on Zaira's form, all while hiding the truth that Zaira had actually died.

The quareen

Having "saved" Zaira, Radeyah was given the crown sorceress position and the quareen, in the deceased Zaira's body, appeared alive and well. However, due to a quareen's evil nature, it preyed on everyone around it, killing other concubines and feeding off jealousy, hatred, and lust, including starting a short affair with the crown assassin, Maraal.

These killings weren't just due to its nature though. As it killed, it grew stronger, so that in time, Radeyah's bindings would no longer work on it. Realizing she was losing control, Radeyah sought a way to deal with the quareen that wouldn't implicate herself, when luck would have it that Dandelion and the witcher Geralt dropped in, having accidentally been brought straight to the palace via a magical flying trunk.

The quareen, unaware yet that the witcher was tasked to look into "Zaira", continued her tryst with Maraal, and went out to meet him in a private part of the garden. When she got there though, she was suddenly knocked out by Radeyah to allow Geralt to examine her, where it was revealed one of the binding bracelets was damaged. Before the quareen came to, the two ran off and the quareen woke up to Maraal there, holding her in his arms.

Later that evening though, as the bindings started to wear off, one of the other concubines, Dayo, walked in on the quareen in an attempt to catch "Zaira" having her affair with Maraal. Seizing on this, the damaged bracelet broke and the quareen fatally wounded Dayo before running off.

The following evening, the quareen seduced one of the guards in the palace gardens before killing him and making her way to where the malliq was, intent on killing him to finally break the binding of the last bracelet. As she worked her magic and began to transform out of Nibras' view, Geralt raced in to confront the quareen. With no time to explain to the malliq what was going on, Geralt knocked him out and the quareen attacked Geralt, who broke the last binding bracelet, allowing the quareen to finally take on its actual form. As the quareen tried to attack the witcher again, Geralt managed to draw a binding circle around it, freezing it in place before destroying it, releasing it from Zaira's body.

Now with it clear that Zaira was dead, Radeyah immediately seized on the

opportunity, declaring the witcher had killed her and to have him arrested and executed. However Geralt, thanks to Dandelion suggestion a different way to "kill" Geralt, was still secretly alive and had Nemet take him to where the bodies were. There, he properly examined Zaira's body to discover she'd died over a week ago and had quareen summoning runes etched into her arm, confirming for the witcher that the real Zaira had been dead before he first saw her.[1]

Notes

- Due to how the comic is illustrated and using broken Common Speech (similar to how one may speak in a non-native language) it's unclear if the quareen was summoned to possess/use Zaira's body, or if it creates itself a body based on the deceased.
    - This is made further unclear as Nemet appeared to indicate four died when Geralt examined the latest victim, but Zaira quickly corrects him that it was three, saying "the first one mere illness took", possibly indicating that was actually Zaira and her body was taken away.
        - When Geralt has Nemet take him to where the bodies are, it's shown in Nemet's cart he was carting away more recent deaths (Maraal and Dayo) while Zaira's is already in the burial pit, further suggesting her real body was whisked away in secret the moment she died and replaced with the quareen.
    - When Geralt talks to Fathaa, the comic illustrations suggest Radeyah used Zaira's actual body to summon the quareen into. This would also line up with Geralt's fight, where after he got rid of the quareen, Zaira's body appeared for everyone to see. It's possible though that this was just a powerful illusion, as rumors quickly spread that the body disappeared (though it was left uncertain if the people talking meant Zaira or Dandelion, who faked his death and was smuggled out).

References

1. ↑ [1.0] [1.1] *Of Flesh and Flame*

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